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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 KINSHASA 000950

SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: NEW SECURITY SECTOR AGREEMENTS SIGNED BETWEEN  
BELGIUM, SOUTH AFRICA, HOLLAND, AND THE DRC

Classified By: Ambassador Roger Meece. Reason 1.4 (b/d).

11. (U) Summary: Three new security sector reforms were signed on the margins of a June 1 ceremony marking the graduation of the third FARDC integrated brigade (reported septel). The Belgian, South Africa, and DRC agreements provide for additional future training, equipment and infrastructure development. A Dutch "letter of intent" provides for a new Euro 5 million grant channeled through South Africa, also related to infrastructure support for further military integration training. Related, South African military "census" activities continue, with an implicit agreement for European financial support as necessary to complete the key census exercise. All represent welcome progress to spur increased activity in the critically important security sector during the final portion of the DRC transition process. End summary.

12. (U) Septel reports a June 1 ceremony held in Kamina (Katanga Province) to mark the graduation of soldiers drawn from various former belligerent factions, trained under South African and Belgian auspices to form the third integrated FARDC brigade. Three security sector agreements were signed on the margins of the ceremony by the Belgian, South African, and Congolese Ministers of Defense, and by the Dutch Ambassador.

13. (U) A "Joint Communiqué on the Arrangement between the DRC, RSA, and Belgium" signed by the respective Defense Ministers builds on a December 2004 "trilateral" agreement, and provides for continued future cooperation and further military training. In general terms the agreement provides for the South Africans and Congolese to "keep on with the activities linked to the integration training" in designated centers, and the Belgian and Congolese to "ensure the training of the leadership of the Kamina airport site and the Kinshasa Military Academy." The agreement further provides that Belgian and South African liaison officers will be detailed to the other country's working groups, and specifies "implementation mechanisms" will be further worked out at the expert level.

14. (U) A bilateral agreement signed by the Belgian and Congolese Ministers commits Belgium to further "train-the trainers" for the Mushaki, Luberezi, and Nyaleke integration centers (in North and South Kivu), with training to be conducted in Kamina starting July 1. The accord further commits both countries to work to improve Kamina infrastructure, and promises Belgian support to help equip the new third integrated brigade. This support is further defined as direct Belgian contributions as well as Belgian "contacts" with other international community states to fulfill equipment needs of this and future integrated brigades. The bilateral accord also references Belgian secondment of a Belgian Colonel to the GDRC's military integration authority (SMI), as well as a Belgian promise to "equip and form" a Beninese battalion for deployment to MONUC forces.

15. (U) In addition, a quite detailed "Letter of Intent" was signed by the South African and Congolese Ministers, and by the Dutch Ambassador on behalf of her government. The letter in essence commits the Dutch government to provide a grant of five million Euros to the South African government to support Congolese Army integration. Specifically, the funds are intended to improve living conditions in the Nyaleke and Mushaki integration centers in North Kivu in accordance with a previously conducted needs assessment. The letter is very specific that the grant is to support the integration process, and that brigades to be trained must include troops at platoon level from a specific list of former belligerent factions (e.g., MLC, RCD-Goma, FAC, Mai-Mai, RCD-ML). The letter imposes a number of other specific conditions, including human rights training, consistency with the national integration and demobilization plans, and deployment of troops following training to permit other new troops to be moved into the integration training centers. The letter notes that a separate bilateral agreement will be signed between the Netherlands and South Africa regarding the grant and release of funds and the obligations of both countries

16. (U) Text of all three agreements are being sent to AF/C.

17. (SBU) Related, South African-led "census" activities are continuing based on a 30-person South African military group

assisted by FARDC officers. A large number of soldiers in Kamina were clearly equipped with visible badges indicating soldiers already processed through the census procedure. Concern had arisen that this initiative might falter due to a lack of money; however, a consensus has formed with an implicit commitment for European funds to be available to South Africa to permit the census activity to be completed as quickly as possible. A successful census project is essential to eliminate from the rolls a large number of "phantom" soldiers, claimed for payroll purposes, and set baselines for the overall military integration and DDR programs. In addition, the exercise is critical to the corresponding effort underway to regularize payment of salaries to the military, a long-standing Congolese problem.

18. (C) Comment: The Dutch grant is fully consistent with obvious Dutch interest in helping to foster greater South African integration with European security sector activities. There is, however, continuing unease and sometimes criticism evidenced by Belgian officials regarding the South African activities. While senior-level Belgian and South African officials appear intent to reinforce coordinated activities, as evidenced by the new "trilateral" cooperation extension, there appears to be some continuing working-level competition. The Kivu integration centers were part of a new network established as a part of various "emergency plans" adopted starting late 2004, but largely uncoordinated and poorly directed. The new agreements reflect efforts to ensure that the poor physical conditions in these centers are brought up to some accepted minimal standard, and that more generally the integration efforts underway in these, as well as the Kitona and Kamina centers, are part of the overall coordinated national integration plan. There are still outstanding issues, for example, a sub-standard Camp Lukusa facility in Kisangani, and a proposed new center in Mbandaka, but the agreements signed in Kamina represent substantial progress.

19. (U) Comment continued: Taken together, the new agreements, the corresponding census activity, related continuing Angolan training efforts, and the establishment of a new EU Security Mission working in support of pay and other security sector reform activities augur well for an increased pace of security sector programs. All of these activities represent substantial resource commitments by the various partners in recognition of the critical importance of the security sector as the Congolese transition enters a final phase moving toward elections. End comment.  
MEECE